

**Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission  
Minutes of February 6, 1996**

**Present:** Commissioners -

Burt Boyum, Quincy Mine Hoist Association  
Clarence Dwyer, Houghton County Commissioner  
Kathryn Eckert, State Historic Preservation Officer  
Larry Lankton, Michigan Technological University  
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township Supervisor  
Mary Tuisku, Council Person, Hancock

National Park Service -

Mike Bureman, GMP Team Captain  
Bill Fink, KNHP Superintendent  
Al Hutchings, Associate Field Director  
Bill Schenk, Midwest Field Director  
Ed Yarbrough, KNHP Historian

Recording Secretary -

Lisa Dwyer, Michigan Technological University

**Absent:** Peder Kitt, Advisory Commissioner  
Josef Balachowski, NPS, Historic Architect

**Other Participants/Guests**

Glenn Anderson, Hancock City Manager  
Reverend Robert Langseth, Faith Lutheran Church  
Jim Vivian, Calumet  
Jim Boyce, Houghton County Commissioner

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held Tuesday, February 6, 1996 in Calumet, Michigan at the park headquarters. The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chair Paul Lehto.

Introductions

Chair Paul Lehto introduced special guests Jack Hoffman and Rebecca Smith Hoffman from Lower Michigan who are here to conduct a 2 day workshop with the GMP team and community leaders on Michigan historic preservation.

Review of Minutes

The minutes of the October 27, 1995 KNHP Advisory Commission meeting were reviewed. Clarence Dwyer asked that the following comment he made at the October meeting be added to the minutes. Dwyer requested that when Bill Fink solicits the Trust for Public Lands to purchase the Quincy Hill Pay Office, he should also request that the building in which the park headquarters is currently lodged also be purchased by the Trust. With this addition, Burt Boyum moved that the minutes be approved with "special compliments" to the recording secretary.

### Superintendent's Report

Bill Fink distributed a copy of the Advisory Commission charge and reviewed the circumstances under which the commission or its subcommittees can meet without satisfying public notice requirements. The commission operates under a law called the Federal Advisory Commission Act (FACA). Regulations of FACA state that the commission meetings must be announced in advance and open to the public. However, if a meeting is initiated by a Federal Officer the Advisory Commission or its subcommittee members can meet for the purpose of exchange of information, but not the development of policy. With this in mind, Fink suggested forming a Park Operations Advisory subcommittee and a Preservation Assistance Grants Guidelines subcommittee.

Fink went over the "advisory" function of the commission explaining that only the "advisory" functions of the commission were activated and not any of the "operating" characteristics. In the bill where it says things such as the commission has the ability to acquire and hold land, that is an "operating" characteristic that was never activated under the bill. Fink advised the commission to look to their charter more than the language in the law as to what their charge is.

Next Fink spoke of the concerns such as lack of progress perceived by some, inadequate communications, and lack of visible accomplishments that individual commissioners, some members of the public, and his superiors have regarding his management of KNHP. He said much of what is being done right now is "behind the scenes" and not as visible. He asked for comments from the commissioners. Burt Boyum responded by saying he recalled an admonition made by Senator Carl Leven quite some time ago when the park was being formed that it is very important for communities to work together when differences arise and work at presenting a united front. Mary Tuisku agreed with Boyum adding that part of the problem is the dynamics of the commission and the parameters under which the group works. She said while she feels the commissioners are "proactive people", they have been put in a role of being "reactive" group. She said "dissent in the community regarding the park could come back to haunt us", and she too stressed the importance of working out the problems and presenting a united front.

Fink then reviewed the 1996 FY budget saying it is not finalized, but is operating under what is called "continuing resolutions" although it appears the budget will be the same as the previous year or somewhere around \$225,000. He added that to reach a no deficit budget, Lynn Bjorkmann would have to be terminated by March 30, 1996 and Ed Yarbrough would have to be terminated by May 25, 1996. Travel would have to be cut back also. He said that he will not be able to afford to hire a seasonal interpretive park ranger this summer.

Kathryn Eckert asked Fink to give an update on what has been done about the two resolutions passed at the last meeting. One was to advise the park superintendent to find a solution to keep in place the historic preservation planner, Lynn Bjorkmann, for the benefit of the community and the park as a whole. The other resolution was to find a way to stabilize deteriorating key structures within the park boundaries. Fink said that letters were submitted to Midwest Field Director Bill Schenk.

Fink distributed an announcement that the National Coalition for Heritage Area meeting will be held March 31 to April 2, 1996 and if one or two commissioners would like to attend with him, the park service would cover the cost. He also distributed information on a conference to be held at the beginning of March on the campus of Michigan State University sponsored by the Department of Park, Recreation and Tourism Resources and MSU Museum. It is titled "Linking Michigan's Natural and Cultural Resources for Community-based Tourism Development."

### Historical Architect's Report

Since Josef Balachowski is out of town on business, Ed Yarbrough spoke on his behalf. He reported that with the help of the USFS Forest Products Laboratory there will be a 4-day preservation session. There will be two days of instruction followed by hands-on investigation of the Quincy Shaft House and the Norwegian Church.

Balachowski has been doing condition assessments on St. Anne's Church, and the Quincy Bath House.

Ed reported that he and Balachowski have begun to draft a plan for a walking tour of Calumet which will focus on major historical buildings.

#### Research Historian's Report

Ed Yarbrough said his term with the park seems to be coming to a close at the end of May 1996. The Historic Research Study he is writing places the buildings and landscapes of Calumet and Quincy into an historic narrative and will be the groundwork for park interpretation. Final draft form will be at the end of May. Yarbrough said he will attending the Council on Public History conference in mid April and present a session called "Beyond the Technical Focus of Two New Parks". Commissioner Larry Lankton will be in attendance also as a commentator. In conjunction with MTU students in a technical writing course, Yarbrough is preparing an exhibit focusing on the Quincy Smelting Works. A location hasn't been determined, yet. Yarbrough said he would also like to acknowledge the many hours that park volunteer, Mrs. Hattie Stenson has put in extracting information about workers' conditions in the mines and corporate housing.

#### Preservation District Report

Lynn Bjorkmann reported that she has been working with the GMP team and their plans for the park. She said she also has been working on completion of the products of her survey project within the Calumet, Laurium , and Calumet Township industrial core. The survey cards and the computer data base will be distributed to the local units of government. This will done during Preservation Week to be held at the end of May. The completion of this project will allow the three local units of government to move ahead in establishing a local historic ordinance, she said. She also has been working with consultant, Frank Gilbert, of the National Trust for Historic Preservation regarding establishment of a preservation district ordinance for the industrial core of the Calumet area.

#### Chairman's Report

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Trying to stabilize the industrial core property along the Sixth Street. A piece of property was purchased by Lake Superior Land request for a letter

Calumet has applied for an Inland Fisheries grant. Also a grant has been filed on behalf of the Upper Peninsula Firemen's

Lehto spoke of the \$100,000 which people believe is available to the Advisory Commission saying there is no such money available to the Commission right now. Fink added that even though the commission is authorized an annual appropriation, the funds have to be appropriated each fiscal year.

Kathryn Eckert said she believes a pressing matter is to develop local historic district ordinance guidelines so when projects occur until there is something in place to aid in the planning.

Fink said that another thing that is being worked on at the Calumet Township's request is that last year the park funded Frank Gilbert of the National Trust to develop an interim preservation ordinance which Fink said is expected to be delivered by mid March. Kathryn Eckert sees a role of a sub committee of commissioners to take on being a liaison

Burt Boyum reported on the \$420,000 grant from the Economic Development Association for the tramway. The total pledges received so far is \$136,000 toward the \$180,000 which is what the association has to raise. The Association has submitted all of the engineering requirements for the bid contracts. The initial operation of the Tramway could be as early as September of 1996. Boyum also added that the QMHA has kept Fink informed of its activities so that he is aware of what the tramway will fit into the overall scheme of park.

On another matter, Boyum said the QMHA has had a publication program for a number of years. They have secured the reprinting rights to *Boom Copper*, a popular history of the Keweenaw, and also hope to reprint the publication *Old Reliable* of which Commissioner Larry Lankton is a co-author. Also, Boyum reported that the QMHA has entered into a cooperative agreement with Terry S. Reynolds, Head of the Social Sciences Department at MTU, staff, and an Industrial Archaeology graduate student to produce a publication titled *Copper Range*.

Clarence Dwyer reported that he has been in touch with the politician's offices around the state to insure that they are notified of the park activities as well as advisory commission meetings.

Mary Tuisku that through the assistance of Josef Balachowski and the Hancock Historic Preservation Commission, Hancock now has a walking tour brochure in print. Hancock City Manager Glenn Anderson is the person to contact if anyone is interested in purchase of the Finlandia building (the old Northwest Hotel) in order to save it from demolition. The City of Hancock will be meeting with Jack Hoffman and Rebecca Smith Hoffman for advice on establishing a historic preservation ordinance. The Hancock waterfront will see development of condos, possibly a motel and craft oriented development.

Tuisku then introduced the new city manager of Hancock, Glenn Anderson who gave a report on the future 20 million dollar Portage Health Systems hospital to be located on Quincy Hill.

The city is working on annexation of property to add to an existing road which would be the main access to the hospital. There is a plan being worked on right for a Hancock watertank to be on the border of Hancock and Franklin Township. It will be a ground tank about 20 feet high according to Anderson.

The question was raised by Jim Vivian of the Quincy Mine Hoist Association whether the city has discussed zoning restrictions with the townships with regard to new development. Vivian said that QMHA is concerned with undesirable commercial development. Fink interjected saying that Quincy and Franklin Townships have been working on zoning ordinances for several years.

Larry Lankton spoke of his concern for the overall importance of the northwest side of highway US 41 saying that the best overview of the entire Quincy Mine site is in this area. Many significant buildings and mine houses are located in this area in addition to a National Landmark. He stated that he is not too happy to see modern development in this area until what park planners know what will be done in that area. He also questioned the wisdom of having a road having go through that part of National Historic Landmark. Fink said a traffic light would probably be at the intersection of U.S. 41 and the road leading to the hospital which would help with the flow of park visitors. side. Lankton stated that this development goes back to his point made at a previous meeting where private development moves faster than the park development. He continued saying the one thing that bothers him about political development on Quincy Hill is that in a historical sense, where Calumet is the urban model of what a mine site looked like, the Quincy site is more representative of what an rural mine site was like and this vista should be maintained. He said this private

development could change the character of the area in a negative way.

Mary Tuisku responded to Lankton's remarks saying the City of Hancock has zoning ordinances in force whereas the township doesn't. By the city is growing into the township they will bring their zoning regulations.

Lankton said he feels the most important issues for the advisory commission is to make the public and Park Service aware of what are the key aspects of the sites and protect those areas. He suggested a subcommittee is needed which would be kept informed of developments affecting the park sites.

Lankton said the Industrial Archaeology program at Tech is plugged in on many levels of park development. Primarily though, Tech seems to be serving as an information gathering agency in generating knowledge of the mining industry and its sites. MTU Social Sciences faculty member, Kim Hoagland and architecture historian had one of her classes make measured drawing of Quincy mine houses. Rick Fields, GRA of the IA program is working on the Copper Range book Boyum spoke of earlier. Grant Day another IA graduate student is doing a survey of mine sites in Ontonagon County. In one of Lankton's previous classes he had 5 students each working on reading a years worth of area newspapers taking down references to buildings in the area so there will be five years worth of references.

Kathryn Eckert gave a brief report on the status of the Historic Preservation Office in Lansing. Their program is being operated on continuing budget resolutions. Projects like the Ontonagon Survey which office handled last year will be not be available this year. Her office has completed the revision to the state-wide comprehensive preservation plan and the Department of Interior has approved it. It will appear in a popular format in print during Preservation Week in May. It will be called *Preservation Shore to Shore*.

Eckert believes it is important to get preservation assistance grants in place in readiness for small grants. She suggested that a subcommittee could be formed for this purpose and it could also deal with general planning, technical assistance issues like the road on Quincy Hill discussed earlier, historic district study reports as well as education and awareness. Could deal with developing the guidelines for anticipated grants and working with the preservation ordinance committee. Could be one committee for both issues. Fink suggested Chair Lehto speak with the commissioners to see who would be interested in being on the subcommittee with perhaps 3 members on the committee. Lehto asked the advisor commissioners' permission to set up 2 committees, one for finance and operations and the other would deal with preservation planning. A motion was made and approved to establish these committees, but first guidelines will be written up first before it is decided who will serve on these committees.

Lehto said that the Coppertown people would like to begin cleaning up the pattern shop building this summer and safely store the patterns perhaps at the Calumet Township warehouse.

Fink introduced staff members representing Senator Carl Levin, State Representative Paul Tesanovich and Congressman Bart Stupak. Senator Abrahams office called to Fink to say no one could be in attendance on the Senator's behalf.

Mike Burman report on the progress of the GMP saying last year at public meetings held there was concern expressed by the community as to how the historic district and preservation ordinances would affect the area. In order to alleviate these concerns, he is sponsoring a series of workshops lead by Jack Hoffman and Rebecca Smith Hoffman who have experience in working with communities in Michigan to establish preservation ordinances. The meetings will be with local governmental officials and selected public invitees. Workshops to held in late spring in early summer will be open to the public. Bureman said that there is now a beginning draft of a General Management Plan. During the next several days at KNHP headquarters Bureman said he and his team will be holding work sessions trying to finalize the draft plan. Then is will be

submitted to the NPS for review, and after that made available for public review sometime during the summer of 1996.

Bill Schenk spoke of the partnership aspect of the park, saying that it is an important part of the park. He also said that in spite of the concerns and issues he has heard during the meeting, he feels it is a healthy sign because it indicates that the plans are moving along in developing the park. Need to sort things out, identify problems, concern, issues and work together to resolve them and then move ahead. The key is unity and ability to set aside parochial interests that may divide you from community to community and move forward with a solid position that represents to Congress and the appropriate committees that said you want to accomplish a common purpose. He said that there probably won't be a sudden infusion of funds at the national level to accomplish the going that park planners want to do here. Committees are going to take a hard look at what is being accomplished and competition for funds with other parks and federal agencies will be tough. He added the way to be competitive is to have a good product to go forward with, General Management Plan, and other statements that describe the things the park needs in clear concise terms. He said he would work on a suggestion to try to invite members of Congress on appropriation committees to the area to show the significance of the area. Schenk also said that from time to time superintendents are pressured to do things on behalf of their own park and do it without thinking of the total system. Schenk said he has talked to his park superintendents about supporting the system because when they do this they support their own individual parks as well. A superintendent serves his park best when he works in concert with the rest of the superintendents in the system. He concluded by saying that there is a marvelous historical resource and excellent story to be told here and he encouraged holding on and protecting its component part to assure that the story can be told in a meaningful and logical way.

The report of the department of Interior appropriations is still in debate. The NPS visitor services component is now funded through the fiscal year September 30. That does not include all part of the NP system but for the sake of today's discussion the park and its related functions are funded this fiscal year. He said that the 1997 budget looks like it might be funded at or slightly higher than the 1996 appropriation.

Burt Boyum suggested that an aggressive program be started with the appropriate congressional people to be followed up with the Park Service people to try to get at least the staff of the elected officials to come to the area in order to get the facts on the park.

Boyum also stress the importance of having cooperating site agreements in place and asked for help from appropriate staff so aid in the procedure.

#### Comments from the Public

Jim Boyce, Houghton County Commissioner said that at the last Advisory Commission meeting there was discussion on the establishment of a "Friends of the Park" group and he suggested that it is time to get such a group started here. It would help communicate to the public the activities of the park.

A special meeting has been called, Lehto said, to discuss forming such a group.

Sue Cone of the Village of Calumet, spoke on behalf of the chair of the Calumet, Laurium and Calumet Township Historic District Study Committee. The committee would like to go on record supporting the importance of continuing Lynn Bjorkmann's survey project. Bjorkmann's position will end at the end of March. She said the committee would like to go on record in support of continuing funding for Bjorkmann's position. The committee urges that the commissioners adopt a resolution in support of Bjorkmann's position. Cone continued, saying Bjorkmann has worked successfully in the community for almost 3 years and her experience and skills are very valuable to the park. The study should not lay dormant she stressed.

A letter addressed to the Advisory Commission was read by a member of the Village of Calumet Planning Commission. The letter spoke of the disappointment in the how the development of the Mine street Station was handled. The Village of Calumet Planning Commission requests that they be notified of all activities that would affect the village as an historical landmark. Also would like to know what has been done with regard to choosing a representative from the Village of Calumet to serve on the Advisory Commission to replace Commissioner Peder Kitti who resigned last year. Shortly after his resignation the Village of Calumet council recommended that John Vertin or John Garbo be his replacement.

Also asked what measures will be taken to guarantee that the Mine Street Station development future businesses are alerted to the fact that they are located in the KNHP and that the entire community will be affected by what they plan to do. They also asked that situations like the Pamida building and what went wrong be researched so that this won't happen again. The Village of Calumet Planning Commission meeting are held once a month on the second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. and all are invited to attend.

Jim Vidian of QMHA request that the City of Hancock include and work with someone from the QMHA in some of their planning on the Quincy Hill Development.

Vidian also said that the bathhouse in Quincy Hill is a part of the QMHA lease and therefore the association should be made aware and brought into planning and development of that area.

Reverend Robert Langseth asked if St. Anne's Church group needs to engage the technical assistance of a specific architect and planner for that building independently and then bring their plans to the NPS or can they receive technical assistance from the Park Service. Fink responded by saying that's why Josef Balachowski, Lynn Bjormann, and the GMP team are there.

A guest in the audience asked if Fink could have an open door policy in his office. Fink said because he is alone much of the time, he keeps the door locked. However, he is considering setting some specific hours at a place, perhaps in the Houghton area somewhere, when he would be available to meet with the public.

Erik Nordberg of the MTU archives spoke of the role the archives plays in preserving and storing documents and making them available for use. The archives works in tandem with other groups to insure that materials are properly stored. There is an effort to form some kind of archive roundtable to work toward preserving material that is not housed in a depository and the importance of working together to accomplish this. He invited input from anyone toward this effort.

In another matter, Nordberg said the archives is trying to get additional information on the Copper Range Company and if anyone has information or knows someone who might have information, please let him know. Larry Lankton asked if a letter could be drafted to solicit material relating the Copper Range Company be sent to the MTU archives.

Nordberg also issued an invitation to come to the MTU Archives on February 22nd at 4 p.m. when the archival speakers series will be launched.

Fink informed the commissioners that letters have been sent to notify the Secretary of Interior that appointments or reappointments of the Advisory Commissioners will be needed soon. He said the important thing to remember by the commissioners is that they serve until replaced or reappointed. Even though a commissioner's term expires, he or she can still lawfully as a commissioner until their replacement is made.

Jack Hoffman made brief comments regarding he and his wife's thoughts on this area, saying valuable resources on the history and ethnic cultures that are represented, structures that exist and the technological history of the mining industry. What happens to all of this depends on what the community wants to choose for

themselves and he said he and his wife are looking forward to working with the people here in this process.  
at the park headquarters.

On a motion by Burt Boyum, seconded by Clarence Dwyer, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The next Advisory Commission meeting will be held Tuesday, May 21, 1996 at 8:30 a.m. at the park headquarters in Calumet.